

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A process for detecting a toxin in a biological sample, said process comprising

(a) contacting a biological sample made

against a synthetic peptide consisting of at least ~~a~~ ^{with an antibody} ~~five amino acid portion of~~ ^{consecutive}

5 ~~five amino acids of~~

SEQ ID NO: 1, or

against a natural 68 kDa Lethal Toxin Neutralizing Factor protein, wherein said protein is isolated from opossum serum, and

(b) detecting the immune complex formed between the toxin and the antibodies by an ELISA,

10 wherein said sample is obtained from the group consisting of animal, plant and bacteria.

Claim 6 (canceled)

2. (previously amended) A process as in claim 5 wherein said antibodies are in a fluid state and the toxin is attached to a plate, wherein said toxin detected by ELISA is roughly proportional to the lethal dose of the toxin as determined by animal bioassay.

3. (previously amended) A process as in claim 5 wherein the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of food, blood sera, saliva, urine and milk, and the ELISA is carried out by antigen capture format.

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9. (currently amended) A method for assaying a free toxin in a sample, said method comprising

(a) contacting a sample with an antibody ~~antibodies~~ made *consecutive*
against a synthetic peptide consisting of at least ~~a~~ five amino acid portion of
~~five amino acids of~~ *X*
SEQ ID NO: 1, or against a natural 68 kDa Lethal Toxin Neutralizing Factor
protein, wherein said protein is isolated from opossum serum, and

(b) detecting an immune complex formed between the free toxin in the sample and the antibodies;
by an ELISA,

10 wherein said sample is a mixture of a predetermined amount of the toxin and a predetermined
amount of the specific anti-serum to said toxin, wherein said mixture contains a reduced amount
of free toxin due to partial neutralization by specific anti-serum..

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10. (previously amended) A method as in claim ~~9~~ ⁴ wherein the specific anti-serum is made
against a venom.

Claims 11-14 (canceled).

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15. (previously amended) A process as in claim ~~5~~ ⁴, wherein said antibodies react
immunologically with a wide range of biological toxins.

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16. (previously amended) A process as in claim ~~5~~ ⁴ wherein said ELISA is carried out according
to an ELISA double-sandwich method protocol.

17. - 19. (canceled)